BENGALURU, FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 21 | Humidity 79% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 60,298 | Nifty 17,956 | Gold 52,310 | Silver 56,700 | Dollar 79.67 | Euro 80.66 | GBP 96.16

EXCLUSIVE WORLD DIGITAL PREMIERE

Water in the lakes in E Category is not conducive to aquatic life

First the bad news... Act now, or repent later

Experts warn that if immediate action is not taken to stop sewage from entering lakes, there will be fishkill

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A recent dismal report by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board points to there being imminent danger of fishkill in at least 16 lakes in the city. These lakes have been put in the E category for the last two months, which means water from these lakes can only be used for irrigation, industrial cooling, and controlled waste disposal.

Raghavendra B Pacchapur, ActionAid India, explained that fish kills can happen in two circumstances. One of the circumstances is the regular urban runoff passing on to the lakes along with sewage silt. Another circumstance was the discharge of chemicals which are found mainly in the extended Bengaluru areas like Anekal Industrial area or Mahadevapura industrial area. In case of chemical fish kill, it happens faster while the fish kills happening due to sewage happen over a period of time. "It is worrying that water quality in the lakes of Bengaluru is not healthy and not found fit for the wildlife and aquatic life," he said.

According to him eight lakes being classified as E category for the last three months is a serious matter and calls for immediate action, barring which fishkill would be the result. "These eight lakes turned to E category in April. And 16 lakes turned into E category in April and June. BBMP should on priority visit the 32 lakes where the water quality has been classified under class "E" and investigate if there are any live polluting streams running into the lake and arrest it immediately," he said.

According to the report, the lakes that fall under E category since April, May and June are Kaikondrahalli Lake, Singasandra Lake, Kalkere Lake, Varthur Lake, Gangondanahalli Lake, Doddabidirukallu Lake, Bandematta Tank, Shivapura Tank.

> **"BBMP teams should visit the 32 lakes where water quality is classified under class "E"**
>
> –Raghavendra Pacchapur, ActionAid

The lakes that are under E category since May and June are Parappana Agrahara Lake, Haraluru Lake, Kasavanahalli Lake, Kempambudhi Lake, Chikkabanavara Lake, Malathahalli Lake, Subramanyapura Lake and Ullal Lake.

The lakes that have been under E category since June are Somasundarapalya Lake, Vengaiahanakere Lake, Yelemallappa Lake, Kammasandra Lake, Rayasandra Lake, Chandapura Lake, Lalbagh Lake, Yediyur Lake, Sarakki Lake, Ulsoor Training Centre, Herohalli Lake, Andhrahalli Lake, Kachohalli Lake, Vishwaneedam Lake, Machohalli Lake, Kengeri Lake.

A city-based environmentalist stressed on the need for urgency. "It is of extreme importance that the authorities take immediate action to stop sewage from entering the lakes. Till now there have been at least eight fish kills this year."

Shivalingappa, a BBMP official, said, "We have not yet received the KSPCB report. Once we examine it, we will take the necessary precautions." He insisted that the lakes are clean. "There is not much sewage flow, but we have to study the report in detail," he maintained.

The Singena Agrahara Lake was in a bad shape till last year

And the good.. A year on, this lake is healthy

Looks like Singena Agrahara Lake is turning the corner

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The efforts of citizens to keep the 117-acre Singena Agrahara lake that had been encroached upon and on the brink have paid off. The lake's water quality has become better now, after a year of constant check by the citizens to keep the lake free of encroachments and pollution.

The lake that is supposed to be 1,000 years old was encroached upon by farmers who are said to have used natural blocks like trees, shrubs and other vegetation, which was neglected over the years and had grown all over the lake. Bangalore Mirror had reported on how Captain Santosh, a retired army officer, had made efforts by following up with different departments like revenue, minor irrigation and the former Deputy Commissioner (DC), to have the encroachments removed. With his regular follow up, the encroachments were removed, followed by cleaning up of the surroundings of the lake and desilting of the nearby storm water drains, after which rainwater started to flow inside the lake.

Recently a government analysis was carried out of the water quality and samples were collected by the Environmental Health Safety Research and Development Centre. The samples were collected on July 13 and the analysis was completed on July 19.

The samples were tested under 35 different parameters, the pH of the lake stood at 7.75 which is stated to be ideal for the lake. According to the Water Research Centre, in general, water with a pH less than 7 is considered acidic and with a pH greater than 7 is considered basic. The normal range for pH in surface water systems is 6.5 to 8.5 and for groundwater systems 6 to 8.5. Alkalinity is a measure of the capacity of the water to resist a change in pH that would tend to make the water more acidic. The measurement of alkalinity and pH is needed to determine the corrosivity of the water.

In terms of the odour of the lake, the results showed that it was "agreeable". While the chemical oxygen demand and the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) were on par with the standard requirement of the lake. Similarly other parameters including the amount of Iron, nickel, copper, zinc, mercury, lead, manganese were included which showed they were within the required limit.

Captain Santosh told BM that this was the first lake in Anekal to be cleared of encroachments and cleaned up.

"It was safeguarded from sewage discharge too. With the community's involvement along with government officials, we have seen success. We are looking forward to seeing many more lakes in Anekal taluk to have water as per the standards of good water quality index."

BangaloreMirror

THE LAKE LIVES

Retd army officer takes it upon himself to coordinate with authorities, farmers to bring the Singena Agrahara Lake back to life

BM had on Nov 19, 2021 reported about Captain Santosh's efforts

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Happy Krishna Janmashtami

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How 62 students at govt school, mostly children of daily wagers, attend lessons as water leaks into poorly ventilated rooms

AN EDUCATION

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Rundown government schools are not a rarity in Bengaluru. A school in Gandhinagar, Kengeri Satellite Town, for instance, is in such a bad shape that it is actually a health risk to the students.

When it rains, the 62 students of the school have to sit in classes as water leaks through the porous ceiling in rooms without ventilation.

Such was the concern for the kids' health that social workers coordinated with the area block education officer and relocated them to a nearby temple.

The day this correspondent visited the school, around 30 students had not turned up for lessons. "Called in sick," said a teacher, who told BM that it was commonplace among students and teachers. They said parents too are hesitant to send kids.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

"For the past 10 years, water has been leaking from the roof... This is making the rooms mouldy and giving kids and teachers infections

—Vasantha Kumari, head mistress, Govt Lower Primary School

CITY / PAGE 5

White-top, don't chop

BBMP plans to cut down 14 trees to white-top CV Raman Road

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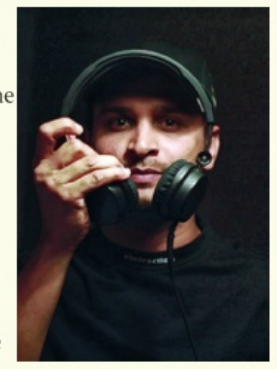
3 THINGS TO DO

01 Metal heads, unite

Celebrating 40 years of Metallica and Frontman James Hetfield's birthday month, Hard Rock Cafe St Marks Road brings you Sceptr3, featuring the legendary gig expert, Teemeer for a smashing tribute to the greatest of all bands: Metallica! Sceptr3 is known for thrash metal & heavy metal, old school style. **Where: Hard Rock Cafe, St Marks Road; When: August 20, 9 pm onwards**

02 Hot beats!



Foxtrot Marathahalli presents 'The Saturday Pill' with DJ NY. Starting his career at the age of 20, DJ NY has been one of the rising stars of the Indian DJ Circuit. He has been widely recognized for being a pro across genres, ranging from house music to hip-hop to Bollywood. From holding multiple residences across Pune, Mumbai and Bangalore to organizing, playing and hosting music festivals, DJ NY has done it all. **Where: Foxtrot, Marathahalli; When: August 20, 8 pm onwards; Call: 91081 36001**

03 Sip and paint

Did you know Van Gogh got drunk when he painted? You can also channel the inner artist in you as Smoke House Deli, Indiranagar, is hosting a one-of-a-kind workshop called 'Sip & Paint' in collaboration with Chill Sesh. You will learn how to create an artistic masterpiece and get professional at making delicious cocktails taught by an expert mixologist. Everything necessary for fun will be provided including paints, brushes, and canvas. **Where: Smoke House Deli, Indiranagar; When: August 20, 11 am - 2 pm Tickets: https://insider.in/chill-sesh-sip-paint-bengaluru-aug20-2022/event**

Joyride soon on track

Bengaluru kids' much-loved toy train Putani Express all set to resume in a month's time with added facilities, say authorities

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Child's play: Construction of entrance gate, better seating facilities for children and parents, kiosk for snacks and soft drinks are some of the features being added at Jawahar Bal Bhavan

Kids waiting to have a ride on Putani Express at Cubbon Park's Jawahar Bal Bhavan may not have to wait much longer. The ongoing developmental work taken up by Bengaluru Smart City Limited (BSCL) will be completed shortly and train services are expected to commence in a month's time.

Putani Express, also known as a toy train, has been an added attraction for children who visit Cubbon Park during weekends. The then Mysore State Chief Minister Veerendra Patil inaugurated the train facility on November 14, 1968. State of Mysore became Karnataka on November 1, 1973. Till recently, the Jawahar Bal Bhavan staff used to collect Rs 10 each for children and Rs 30 each for adults to take a ride on Putani Express. There was a proposal to increase the ticket price but postponed it due to elections and later Covid pandemic.

"The developmental work is estimated at Rs 94 lakh. We have taken up construction of an entrance gate, two seating facilities to facilitate children and their parents waiting without any hassles at the Putani Express Station.

The seating facilities will have roofs to ensure no inconvenience to children and their parents during monsoon," said BSCL Chief Engineer Vinayak Sugur.

He said all the amenities would be provided at the Putani Express Station. There will be a kiosk to sell soft drinks and snacks for children.

"We have also constructed a concrete tunnel on the railway track on the western side for the children," said a BSCL engineer.

According to Roopakala DS, an architect, an electronic notice board would be installed at the entrance for the benefit of visitors.

"The digital notice board will showcase the data on programmes being held at Jawahar Bal Bhavan and the timings of Putani Express and other details," said Roopakala, adding that the ticket counter will have an electronic machine to issue tickets for taking a ride.

Many people who visit Cubbon Park on weekends want Jawahar Bal Bhavan to restore the toy train service as early as possible.

"The authorities concerned must complete the ongoing work as early as possible," said Venkatesh M, a resident of Halasuru.

According to Chikkamma BB, former chairman of Jawahar Bal Bhavan, there is a proposal pending for purchasing a new train to replace the existing train. "It may become a reality by next year," he said. Restoration of the track has to be taken up as there was no maintenance for the last two years due to Covid.

There is a proposal to add one more bogey for specially abled children, said a Jawahar Bal Bhavan staffer

"A tender has already been floated inviting bidders for the restoration of the track. We may need one more month to commence service. There is a proposal to add one more bogey for the benefit of specially abled children," said a Jawahar Bal Bhavan employee.

Tummy troubles looming large for kids

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Eating out and socialising like good old times may be everyone -- especially kids' -- favourite activity with pandemic restrictions on the wane, but it comes at a cost. According to doctors, there is a surge in acute gastroenteritis cases in the last few days and children are walking with symptoms such as watery diarrhoea, vomiting, stomach pain, cramping, fever, nausea and headache and responsible lifestyle habits are key.

Doctors across various hospitals are treating at least six to seven patients in the age group of 1 – 10 with varying severity of the infection.

"Children have stepped out of their homes after a long gap. Rainy seasons with blocked drains can contaminate the water resources and can be the reason for outbreaks of diarrhoea, typhoid and leptospirosis," said Dr Yogesh Kumar Gupta, consultant-paediatrics, Fortis Hospital. Children can get dehydrated quickly. In case a child has stomach flu, it is important to look for signs of excessive thirst or dry skin and mouth.

"Parents must take their child to a doctor if the child is severely dehydrated or if fever, diarrhoea and vomiting is persistent even with medication," said Dr DS Ramu, senior paediatrician, BGS Gleneagles Global Hospital.

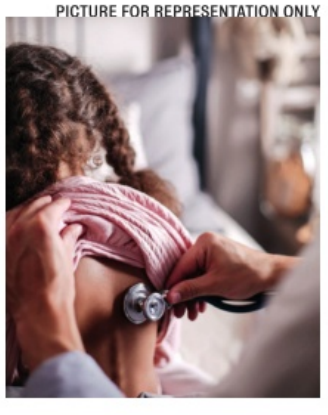
Health experts say it is important to be extra cautious during monsoon about the food and water children consume. With schools reopening and with families eating out more, the risk remains high.

"Children tend to have street food near school premises where the quality of water and food may be questionable. Prevention through strict hand hygiene and consumption of clean drinking water and homemade food will keep the child safe to a good extent," added Dr Ramu.

According to Dr Gunda Srinivas, consultant in paediatric emergency and paediatrics, Aster RV Hospital, there also are cases of kids with dengue fever which presents as fever, body pain, headache, vomiting and abdominal pain, some of whom require hospitalisation.

"Any child who has a fever for more than 48 hours or more than 102F, has a worrying cough, breathing trouble, starts vomiting, has stomach pain, less urine than usual or is very lethargic are signs to watch out for," cautioned Dr Srinivas.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY



Doctors say the best prevention is to maintain a healthy lifestyle with good eating habits.

"We are seeing at least 5-6 cases of diarrhoea. Once infected, children should be given more of a rice-based diet and fresh curd," informed Dr Anuradha Vinod, paediatrics consultant, Manipal Hospital.

They swear to get that OTP!

Pretending to be payment app employees, fraudsters call people and try to force them by using choicest abuse words

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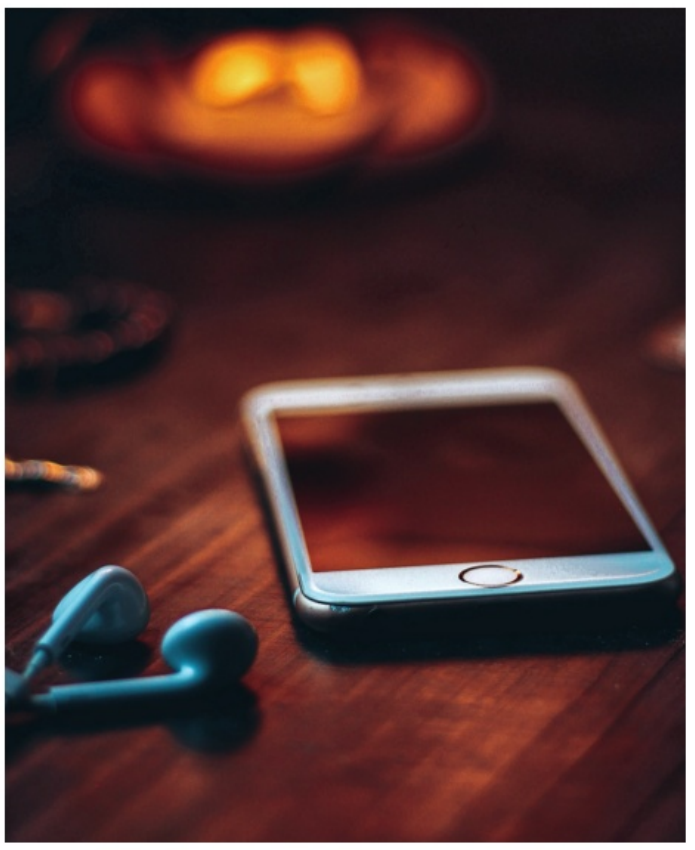
It seems some fraudsters, working in the guise of online payment app personnel, are trying to abuse their victims till they give in. If anyone who answers their call is not willing to part with a One Time Password in a jiffy, they unleash a barrage of abuse, as if just to try their luck in another manner.

It all starts with a harmless sounding proposition -- there is some cashback offer in a payment app to retrieve which one has to give an OTP. But if the person at the other end of the phone questions this, they are in for it.

For instance Shruti Subhash, an IT professional. Her trauma began when she got a call from a person, who introduced himself with a long-ish name that she could not quite catch.

"He said that he is from an online payment app where I have some cashback if I am interested. I told him I do not use the app anymore. This is when he started abusing me, some of the words I did not even understand and at one point, he began threatening me. He kept at it, till I cut the call."



Many victims are wary of even using payment apps now

Shruti said her anxiety shot up and she called her sister immediately after. "He had mentioned my full name and that made me worried because I rarely ever mention my middle name," she said.

Jithesh Gautham, also an IT professional, is another victim of the abusing payment app personnel. "A person claiming to be from an online payment app called me and said that I had a cashback of Rs 4,999 to claim which I must send him an OTP."

Jithesh asked the man how that was possible, and the person began abusing him. "He threatened me and said that he would hack my account. If I tried to take any action, he would take all my money, he said. He claimed he had my address, and could harm me too. Though I cut the call then, he kept on calling me." Finally he had to block the number to put an end to the story.

Most people who have received such calls are put off online payment apps for good because of the fear. Some also told BM that the calls have caused them trauma and made them wary.

Jigyasa M, a student, said, "I asked the caller some questions to which he just kept quiet. So I just asked the questions again. That just got this person going. It was a traumatising experience for me. It took me some time to process it and after I understood what was happening, I was terrified."

> **"He said that he is from an online payment app where I have some cashback offer. I told him I do not use the app anymore, he began abusing me**
>
> –An IT professional victim

She said she is in the city to study and was not able to confide in her parents too as that would worry them. "I blocked the number and even deleted the app," she said.

R Srinivas Gowda, DCP, Central division told BM that the number of cybercrimes in the city has remained more or less the same as previous years. "We see different types of cases -- in some cases people get calls and are asked for OTPs. The victims are told it is to close their bank accounts or call for lotteries and sometimes people have given out their details."

There are instances where people get calls and the fraudsters say their SIM cards will stop working and get blocked if the OTP is not given, he said. According to him, such cases are taken up immediately. "We are also spreading awareness among people regarding such crimes to prevent them from falling into such a trap," he said.

Husband talking about when to have baby not cruelty: HC

In a major development, Karnataka High Court has observed that a husband asking his wife to pursue higher education and talking to his wife on when to have a baby can not be considered as cruelty.

The bench headed by Justice HB Prabhakara Shastri on Wednesday also quashed charges alleging harassment by husband and mother-in-law levelled by his wife. The bench considered the petition of the accused husband and his mother seeking relief from the punishment given by the lower court.

The bench said that the couple are educated and have spoken to each other before marriage about their future. Therefore, a husband asking his wife to pursue her education and join the job can't be considered as cruelty.

The husband had spoken to wife about not having a baby for three years. But, the wife had alleged that her husband's family tortured her for the matter of having the baby. The court observed that, in the larger interest of family, husband talking to his wife on when to have baby can't be considered as cruelty or torture.

The wife had also alleged that she was forced to learn Tamil language and to play shuttle and card games with her husband. The court has also stated that there is no wrong in asking the partner to learn language which is known to all in the family.

The couple stayed in America and the accused husband asked his wife to continue the education and find a good job there. He also told her that this would help the family.

The wife had lodged a dowry case against her husband and his mother and also alleged torture and cruelty. The lower court had accepted her petition and pronounced punishment. The Session's Court had also upheld the punishment order. Hence, the petitioner had approached the High Court seeking relief. **–IANS**

Sweet-talker, fake job offer deal Rs 12-lakh blow

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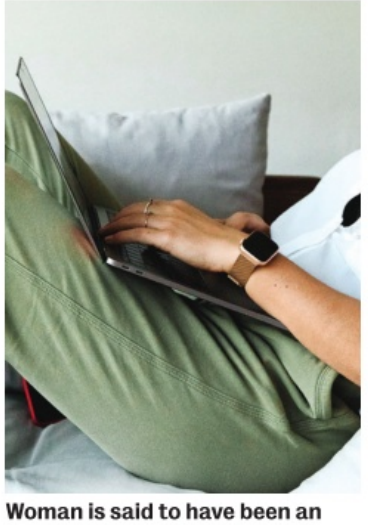
A city-based home maker was cheated twice by conmen (or maybe a single conman) and she ended up losing a whopping Rs 12 lakh. West Division's Cyber Economic and Narcotics (CEN) police are on the look-out for one conman who first impersonated a profile on Facebook to befriend her and used two different modus operandi to steal from her.

The woman Nithya (not her real name) is a resident of Channasandra. A man posing as an NRI befriended her on her social media profile. He is said to have sweet-talked her and then offered to send her gifts from abroad. A few days ago, an unidentified caller posing as a customs official from the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi informed her that there was a parcel package waiting for her at the airport. The caller claimed the parcel had several thousand pounds in it and she needed to pay as taxes to get the parcel released from the customs. Excited, Nithya, ended up transferring Rs 4.1 lakh to the account numbers the conman sent. Realisation only dawned on her when the customs official kept on demanding more money to release the parcel.



Woman is said to have been an active social media user

> **Police suspect bank accounts operated by the accused cybercriminals are either taken on rent on a commission to the account holder or the account is opened with fake credentials**

Realising that she had lost all the money, she decided to recover the money through an online part-time/full-time job. Misfortune struck again as the offer that caught her eye too was from a conman. A conman posing as an employer promising huge returns after meagre investments was where Nithya decided to put her money. She contacted the number given and the conman lured her to invest in online trading to get quick returns.

As Nithya was set on getting back her Rs 4.1 lakh, she invested another Rs 7.91 lakh here. She sent the money from her two bank accounts to the account numbers sent by the fake online trading employer. Soon after Nithya made her investments, the conman went incommunicado. Understandably, it took a while for Nithya to muster the courage to share her ordeal with her family that she had lost nearly Rs 12 lakh in total to cybercriminals.

After she informed her family members, they encouraged her to file a complaint on Monday. The cybercrime police believe that there is a single person behind both the cons. They are now trying to track down the accused based on the transaction details. An investigating officer told this newspaper that they suspect the bank accounts operated by the accused cybercriminals are either taken on rent on a commission going to the account holder or the account is opened with fake credentials.

NHAI rings in good news

Satellite Ring Road to see completion of its first phase by 2023; towns close to Bengaluru will be connected and so will Tamil Nadu's Hosur region

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Work under progress from Doddaballapur to Hoskote as seen in Vagata on May 30, 2022; NHAI is taking up the construction of this satellite ring road under the Bharatmala Project

The first phase of the Satellite Ring Road (STRR) project is likely to be completed by next year. Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said that the STRR around Bengaluru was of a total length of about 288 km, consisting of NH 648, NE 7, and NH 948A.

Out of three packages on NH 648 (101 km), work on two packages measuring 80 km between Doddaballapur to Hoskote is in progress and should be complete by 2023, said Gadkari.

He added that the remaining package (21 km) is going to commence shortly and will be completed by 2024.

"Work on a seven-kilometre stretch of National Expressway 7 (overlapping with Bengaluru Chennai Expressway Package-I) is also in progress with completion by 2023. The work on six other packages of NH 948A (180 Km) are in pre-appraisal and DPR stages. Due to traffic congestion in Bengaluru, the government has taken up the development of Bengaluru Ring Road (Satellite Ring Road for Bengaluru City) under Bharatmala Pariyojana in a phased manner," he explained.

The four-laned, tolled STRR is set to connect towns around the city. Interestingly, this ring road will also connect the Hosur region of Tamil Nadu, being the first by-pass road around Bengaluru that will span across another state.

NHAI is executing this ring road under the Bharatmala Project and connects Dobbspet (Tumakuru Road)-Doddaballapur (Hindupur Road), Devanahalli (Hyderabad Road), Hosakote (Kolar Road), Hosur (Chennai Road), Anekal (Thali Road), Kanakapura (Kollegal Road), Ramangar (Mysuru Road), Magadi (Kunigal Road) and Dobbspet. The total length of this ring road is about 281 km (as against 116 kilometres identified for the peripheral ring road and 60 kilometers of the existing outer ring road) in Karnataka and 45 km in Tamil Nadu.

Currently, the ORR is unable to take the vehicular density. The average density at ORR is almost double at junctions like Hebbal, KR Puram, and Goraguntepalya. A traffic expert said that cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Delhi need as many ring roads as possible.

Bengaluru is an outwardly and radially grown city and requires more roads. For instance, if one takes the NICE Road, travel time between Tumakuru Road and Hosur Road is less than an hour, and if one uses the city's arterial road from Tumakuru to Hosur Road, stretching between the NICE Road junctions, it may take three to four hours. The STRR will be a welcome relief.

> **"Work on a seven km stretch of National Expressway 7 (overlapping with Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway Package-I) is also in progress**
>
> – Nitin Gadkari

No construction allowed within 40 metres of median

The state government plans to curb the construction of commercial and residential properties all along highways. The state is issuing fresh guidelines on where no one can construct any property within 40 metres from a median of a state highway and 25 metres from a district highway. The government has asked the local municipalities and gram panchayats not to permit such buildings. PWD Minister CC Patil said that if any such buildings are constructed, then it will be deemed as illegal and face the risk of being razed. This will be done to stop accidents and provide smooth flow of traffic.

Lesson drenched in poor infra

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The school was built in 1994. In time, the structure suffered water damage on the walls due to years of rain leakage. The first floor of the school has a concrete ceiling which has been lying in disuse for the past two years due to the pandemic. Before that, the classrooms on those floors would get water-logged. Now, the school is only utilising the ground-floor rooms — classes 1-3 and 4-5 have been clubbed together. Due to the constant water damage, the rooms smell of mould. In the room allocated for classes 1-3, windows cannot be opened as there is a private property on that side. The other room has no windows.

Recently, the school conducted Independence Day celebrations inside this constricted space. Lack of space has forced the school to focus only on academics with no outdoor activities. Prayers that used to be held on the road were also shifted inside after a small incident of oncoming traffic. A day at the school means six hours of no fresh air.

Head Mistress of the Government Lower Primary School, Vasantha Kumari, told BM that water leaks through the cracks in the ceiling: "For the past 10 years, water has been leaking from the roof. Due to heavy rains, water leakage has begun in ground-floor rooms too. This is making the rooms mouldy and giving the kids and teachers infections. We are requesting this building be demolished and new rooms with an additional prayer hall be constructed."

She added that they did not have a single room for administrative tasks either. The school also has to share its staircase provided by a private property, creating security risks for the students.

When asked how they managed three classes at one go, she said, "When one class is going on, the remaining class students are given writing exercises." Parents urged the school authorities to write to area MLA ST Somashekhar, which the school authorities said they had done 10 months ago.

"Children are requesting to be shifted to different schools but we cannot afford to enrol our children in private schools. Other schools are also located far from here," said Vijay Kumar, father of two students. "When it rains, we are scared to send our children. Both my children have been sick for the past week. If there is no change, we will be forced to shift them to a different school," he said.

A majority of the parents enrolling children in this school are daily-wage workers.

Activists intervene

Social activists had coordinated with the block educational officer to relocate the students to a wedding hall in Kalikamba Temple on a temporary basis. "I got to know about the situation two months ago. We have relocated the students to the temple premises. Authorities have promised to renovate the premises or provide a new location. We have proposed a new location near the library area," said Sudarshan, a social worker who helped shift the classes.

Bengaluru South block educational officer Rajashekhar told BM a decision on renovation of the building would be taken after consultation with the engineer. "The decision on whether to demolish or relocate to a new facility will be taken by authorities." he said.

Chandrashekhar, an official from the education department said he would bring this to the notice of the minister soon. "After that, I will get a report on possible solutions," he said.

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Cows munching garbage

Kithiganur

Cows grazing on uncleared garbage near Shishu Children's School, Kithiganur.

Out of order

Kumara Krupa Road

This is the state of the footpath on Kumara Krupa Road.

Hanging cables

Nandini Layout

Cables are dangerously dangling in the middle of the road near the south-east corner of BHEI Park, Nandini Layout.

KEB Junction-airport travel becomes fuss-free

Taking cabs or autos for airport at night used to be taxing for residents in this area due to cancellations, unreasonable fares

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

For many years, residents around KEB Junction, HSR Layout used to struggle to hire an auto or a taxi to commute two kilometres to reach BDA Shopping Complex and board a bus to Kempegowda International Airport at night. They were compelled to pay Rs 100-Rs 150.

Now, they need not worry about facing errant auto or taxi drivers, thanks to the Community Task Force (CTF) and Rotary HSR Team that worked to get BMTC Vayu Vajra bus services from KEB Junction. It may be recalled that CTF and Rotary HSR Team had worked together to get the BMTC non-AC buses extended till HSR KEB Junction from November 8, 2021. BMTC operates the buses regularly and many citizens have been using them.

The other objective of CTF and Rotary HSR Team was to get the Vayu Vajra buses operating to Kempegowda International Airport. Until recently, these buses used to operate from HSR BDA Complex to Kempegowda International Airport. In April 2022, the CTF and Rotary HSR Team submitted a letter to extend the Airport bus services to HSR KEB Junction.

"Residents were compelled to pay Rs 1,500 to hire a cab to reach the airport. There were last minute cancellations by cab drivers. Now, one can reach the airport by Namma Vayu Vajra bus by paying just Rs 260 per person, and the bus service is not only reliable but also safe and punctual. People can also commute to designated areas enroute to the airport," said Lalithamba BV, a social activist.

The bus service was inaugurated by BMTC on this Independence Day

The BMTC inaugurated the bus service on August 15, on the 75th year of India's independence, also coinciding with the silver jubilee celebrations of BMTC Services.

As of now, the BMTC is operating 12 trips a day.

"It is a great help for residents of nearby apartments around KEB Junction. It was very tough to hire either an auto or a taxi at night to reach the BDA Shopping Complex to board a bus to the airport. I have to thank the BMTC authorities for extending this service," said Venkatesh HS, a resident.

Wilson Lobo, manager of 25th BMTC Depot, said the commencement of Vayu Vajra bus services from KEB Junction have proved viable.

'White top, don't chop'

BBMP plans to chop 14 trees to white top CV Raman Road; experts deem it unnecessary

Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) seems to be rushing to white top all city roads, and the latest on the list is CV Raman Road.

While the Palike has announced traffic diversion plans for vehicles using the stretch between BHEL circle and Yeshwantpur Circle for work that will begin on Thursday, the Tree Committee's report on the fate of 14 trees standing in the agency's way is yet to arrive.

According to officials from the Forest department, the civic body's proposal to cut or relocate as many as 14 heritage trees for its white topping work is yet to be scrutinised by the committee.

"The proposal has not reached the Tree Committee for deliberation yet. I have received the request letter for the same, but no permission has been granted so far. I do not know how the work will be taken up. They can go ahead and do white topping, but trees will remain there. We need to find out about their plan," said a senior official from the Forest Department.

In March this year, the BBMP had put out a public notice regarding the removal of 14 trees on the stretch. The notice was to inform citizens that an application had been submitted for the chopping of trees. The notice said that while as many as 147 trees are standing in the project area, 14 are proposed to be removed.

Immediately after putting up the notice, the civic body also identified and marked the trees that were expected to make way for the project in red. This had left many netizens and city-based environmentalists fuming as trees are generally marked in red to indicate that they will face the axe soon. However, officials had then maintained that the project can start only after approval from the Tree Committee.

People are unhappy with BBMP for marking the trees they hope to cut in red

> **"White topping involves adding another layer of concrete on the road to improve the surface. Where is the need to chop off trees for this activity?** –Dattatraya Devare, Bangalore Environment Trust

Tree activists and experts say that this is a clandestine way of going about a project.

"The BBMP should follow the whole procedure and not short-circuit it now after publishing the notice. While the civic body is capable of doing that, they should have waited for the Tree Committee's report even though there is civil work involved in the project," said a city-based environmentalist.

Some even say that there is no reason to remove trees for white topping if they are slightly on the road.

"White topping involves adding another layer of concrete on the road to improve the surface. Where is the need to chop off trees for this activity? There are many stretches in the city with trees on the road and the arrangement is working fine. There can absolutely be no justification to cut any tree for such projects," said Dattatraya Devare, trustee, Bangalore Environment Trust.

Tunnel boring breakthrough

Vindhya, a Tunnel Boring Machine, made a breakthrough at Pottery Town Station at 10:30 am on Thursday.

It has completed 900 m of tunnelling between Cantonment and Pottery Town Station. It took 184 days to complete the tunnelling which started on 15 February this year. Cumulative tunneling completed by Vindhya until now is 1755 m.

Man flees after stabbing neighbour

The Rajagopalnagar police are on the lookout for a 27-year-old man who stabbed his neighbour to death over a trivial row on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Azeemullah Khan, resident of Hegganahalli in Maruthi Nagar. The accused Haneef, an unemployed youth, is said to be an alcoholic who had 'fallen into the wrong company'.

Khan used to advise Haneef to mend his ways and chide him frequently.

On Wednesday, he is said to have confronted Haneef and humiliated him in front of others. Enraged by this, Haneef went home and returned with his father. He was also carrying a knife. While his father was arguing with Azeemullah, Haneef stabbed him repeatedly and fled the scene. The profusely bleeding Azeemullah was rushed to a hospital where he succumbed later. The police have registered a case of murder and efforts are on to track down Haneef.

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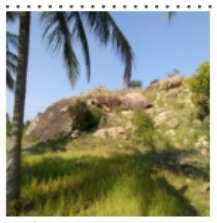

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I, Payal Jaiin R/o E1001, 10th Floor Shapoorji Paloonji Park West Apartment, Sirsi Circle, Magadi Road, Binneypet, Bangalore - 560023 have changed my minor son's name from Prehaan Nikhil to Prehaan Jaiin for all purposes.

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Freebie allegations against Dolo makers

Dolo 650's makers accused of distributing freebies worth ₹1,000 crore to doctors in bid to earn profits

The Supreme Court on Thursday said that the allegations of Dolo tablet's makers distributing freebies worth Rs 1,000 crore to doctors for prescribing their 650 mg anti-inflammatory, fever-reducer drug was a "serious issue".

The matter was raised by an NGO in connection to the Central Board of Direct Taxes' (CBDT) allegations against the medicine makers.

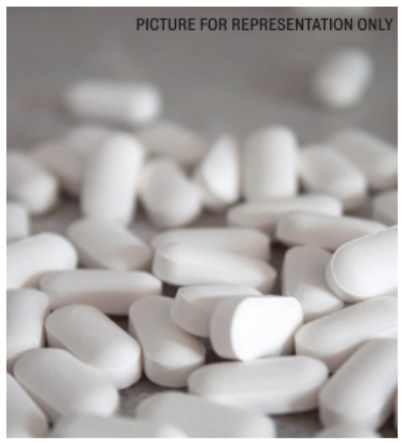
Appearing for petitioner 'Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives Association of India', senior advocate Sanjay Parikh and advocate Aparna Bhat told a bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna that the market price of any tablet up to 500 mg is regulated under price control mechanism of the government but the price of a drug above 500 mg can be fixed by the pharma company concerned.

Parikh alleged that to ensure a higher profit margin, the company manufacturing Dolo tablets distributed freebies to doctors to prescribe the 650 mg drug. The advocate also said he would like to submit more facts to the court after a response was filed by the Centre.

"What you are saying is not music to my ears. This is exactly the drug I had when I had covid recently. This is a serious issue and we will look into it," Justice Chandrachud said.

> **"This is the drug I had when I got covid recently. It is a serious issue and we will look into it** – Justice DY Chandrachud

The bench then asked Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj to file his response to the plea by the petitioner in ten days and gave one week's time to the latter to file his rejoinder.


PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

It has listed the matter for further hearing on September 29.

The CBDT had on July 13 accused the makers of the Dolo-650 tablet of indulging in "unethical practices" and distributing freebies worth about Rs 1,000 crore to doctors and medical professionals in exchange for promoting products made by the pharmaceutical group.

The claims were made after the Income Tax department had on July 6 raided 36 premises of the Bengaluru-based Micro Labs Ltd across nine states.

A counsel sought permission from the court to file an intervention on behalf of the pharma companies, which the court allowed, saying it would like to hear them also on the issue.

On March 11, the top court agreed to examine a plea seeking direction to the Centre for formulating a Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices to curb alleged unethical practices of pharma companies and ensure an effective monitoring mechanism, transparency, accountability as well as consequences for violations.

Parikh also added that this was an important issue in the public interest. – PTI

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Mid-day meal puts 58 kids in hospital

As many as 58 students of a government school in Karnataka's Maski taluk fell ill after having mid-day meals, education officials said on Thursday.

The incident happened in Amingadh village in Raichur district's Maski taluk on Wednesday, where 35 girls and 23 boys were admitted to the hospital complaining of stomach pain and vomiting, the officials said.

"Only three had the problem and others were stable. But due to panicking, they too were admitted. They are now under observation," the officer said.

An inquiry has been initiated into the matter, he added. – PTI

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SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

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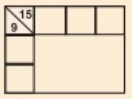
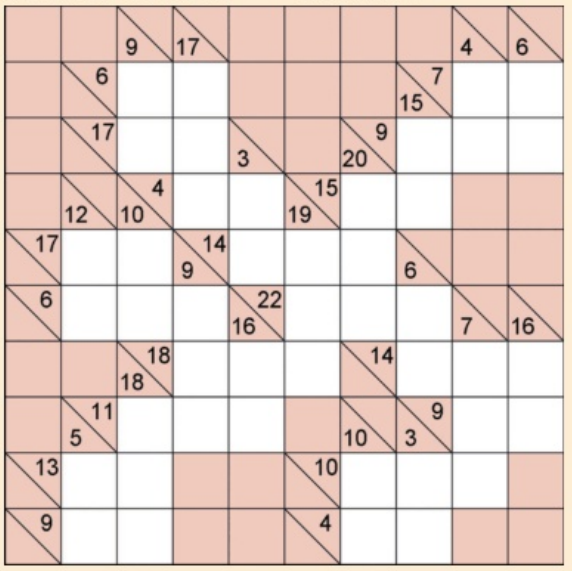
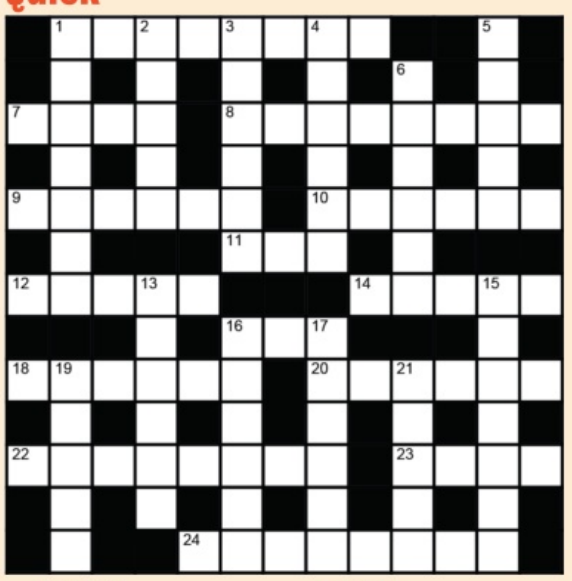


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Hint or suggest (8)
7 A pocket case for pins and needles (4)
8 Sailor (8)
9 Martial art (4,2)
10 Glass in (6)
11 Spoil (3)
12 Sheds tears (5)
14 Celestial bodies (5)
16 From _ __ z : all (1,2)
18 Rose rapidly (6)
20 Famous Hitchcock movie (6)
22 Reticent (8)
23 Crooked (4)
24 Became more intense (8)

DOWN

1 Butt in (7)
2 Article or object (5)
3 The State Archaeological ____ is located in Cubbon Park (6)
4 Tantalizer (6)
5 Glasses (colloq,). (5)
6 Tap (6)
13 Merchant of Venice lawyer (6)
15 Took on rent again (7)
16 Cite as evidence (6)
17 Develop, unseal (4,2)
19 Egg-shaped (5)
21 Long for (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: D EQUALS G

SZMSCC PV PMMWCOPV OC SZJOEWQWGOVD. OG YQSX-SVGC KPHSQWGOPV UQPK WMABOQOVD GJS HSWHSVOVD SUUSMG PU W JWLOG.

Linemaro

If you look into my eyes, you can see the future

Mindchow

God loved the birds and invented trees. Man loved the birds and invented cages

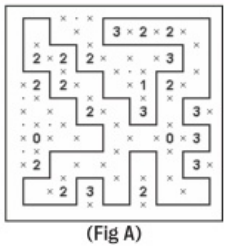
Joke of the day

So I rang up BSNL, I said "I want to report a nuisance caller", he said "Not you again"

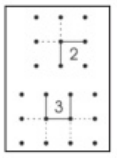
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

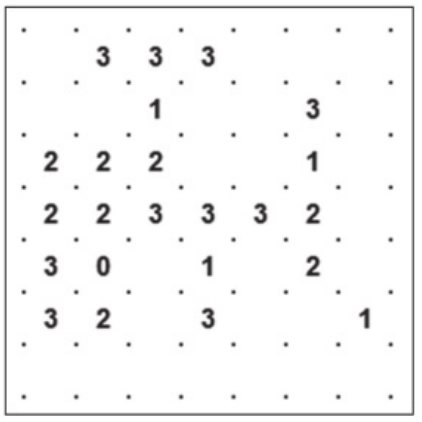


(Fig B) Not Allowed

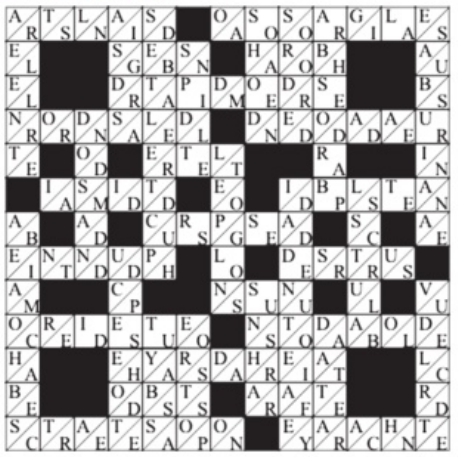
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



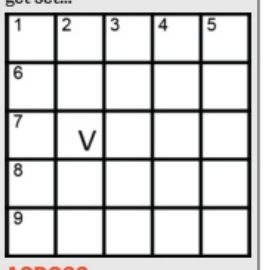
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

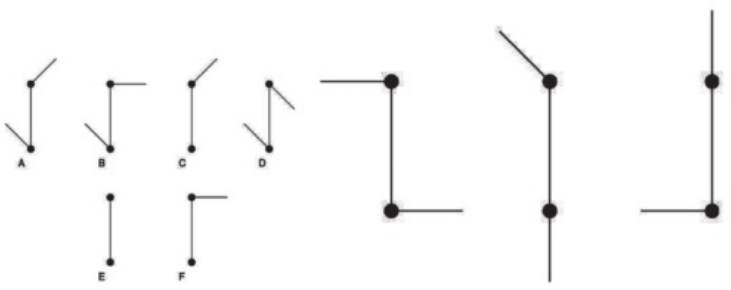
1 Rag ma; 6 Namer; 7 Voter; 8 On cue; 9 The Ms

DOWN

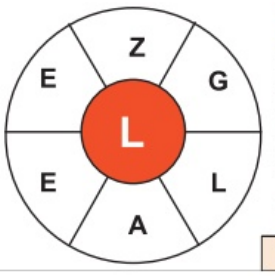
1 Mr Goo; 2 U veer; 3 Meant; 4 Charm; 5 Neats

Mensapuzzle

What comes next?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	9						7	
		1	2		7	8		
5			8		3			6
1	4						2	8
3		7				5		1
8	5						6	3
7			4		9			2
		5	1		2	9		
	6						4	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 6
3 5 5 9

Medium = 7
4 4 6 9

Hard = 5
1 4 6 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

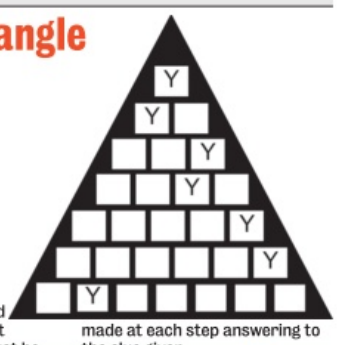
Differences: 1. Box is larger. 2. Tie is longer. 3. Railing is different. 4. Hat is larger. 5. House is wider. 6. Jacket sleeve is longer.

Riddler

My first is novel, shiny and bright My second a warring rose of white My third are a-changin', did Dylan write My whole to press will expedite What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 25th letter
2 Informal greeting
3 Versatile bean
4 Stocking stutters
5 Tale
6 Elevator level
7 Pearl bearers



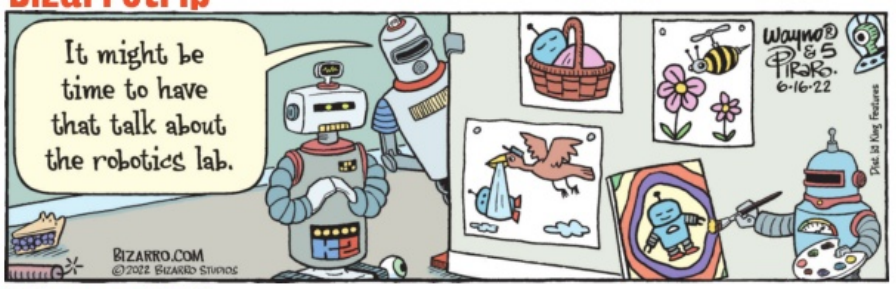
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

LOOK. BIG, FAT HAIRY-BACK SPEEDO GUY IS HERE AGAIN THIS YEAR
WHAT'S HIS NAME, ANYWAY?
I CALL HIM "NIGHTMARE FUEL"
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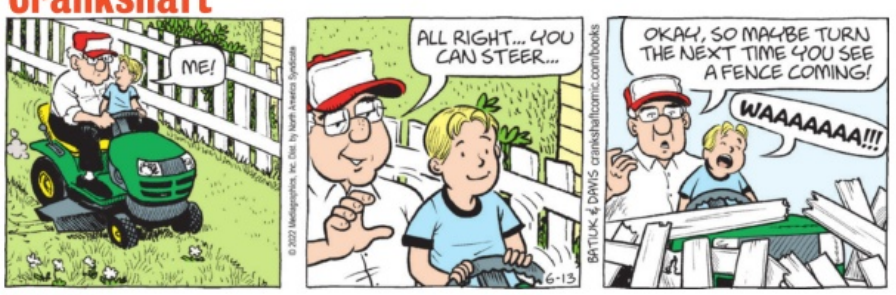
Hart of the city

I FELL IN GYM, AND I THINK I HURT MY ANKLE PRETTY BAD, BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO TO THE DOCTOR!
WHY NOT? YOU LOVE THE DOCTOR! THEY GIVE YOU CANDY!
CANDY ISN'T EVERYTHING, MOM!
YOU MUST BE SICK, TOO.
HART OF THE CITY © 2022 ARDEN STORY
@COMICS.COM/HARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


ME!
ALL RIGHT... YOU CAN STEER...
OKAY, SO MAYBE TURN THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE A FENCE COMING!
WAAAAAAA!!!
6-13
BATIUK & DAVIS crankshaftcomic.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today is a good day for you. You may witness a positive environment around you after hearing some good news from siblings. Job seekers may get a good job. Spiritual energy may help you make the right decisions. Your focus towards your goal will be clear now. Students may have good focus in their studies.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may feel dull. You may not be healthy. You could find yourself standing amid confusion. It is advised to follow your intuition before making important decisions. It is advised to drive safely and avoid adventure tourism. You may criticise yourself and find it difficult to make some important calls. It may affect your social image.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today is important in terms of gains. You may get results with less effort. Your losses may convert to profits with the help of your intelligence. You may plan to get into some academics. You may donate some amount to charity. You may also help needy people. Some investments in intellectual assets may be possible. Students will do better.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today your performance may be very good in terms of your profession. You may have full support of your boss or senior. You are likely to get new opportunities. You may expect to get a new job as well. Job seekers may find suitable work. Singles will find love at their workplace.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today your destiny may be with you. You can manage things easily and that may boost your confidence. You may plan to visit some spiritual place. You are likely to donate some amount to some charity. You may expect short business trips. Help from elders may bring peace of mind. Lovebirds may get some help from family members in terms of marriage.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may feel dull. You may have some small health-related issues, which may affect your daily routine. You may explore and analyse yourself to figure out your negativities. You may feel alone while sitting in a crowd and your focus may be lost. In the late evening, with the help of elders, you may overcome this messy situation.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may get some business orders which may be profitable in the near future. You may implement some new ideas on your work front. New partnerships may come into existence. You may be busy with your work, which could make you mentally tired. It might impact your domestic life.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you will perform well at your job. Your colleagues may cooperate with you. You may be able to complete your postponed projects on time. You may lend money for investment purposes. Job seekers may find a new job. Positive news awaits those affected by old health issues.

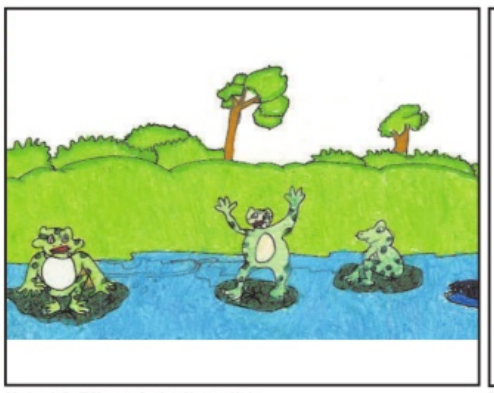
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today situations are okay. People around you may now respond to you, but you are advised not to take life as a burden. You should try to sustain yourself in unavoidable situations. You may face some difficulties with easy gains. Help from elders can let you come out of this situation

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today tasks may remain incomplete and you may be a victim of mood swings. Your patience may be tested many times and silly mistakes can leave you confused. Lovebirds could find themselves to be confused in terms of feelings. More expectations may affect your emotional attachment with your spouse.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, with the help of your subordinate staff, you may be able to complete postponed projects. Your network may be boosted now, which may help you in your work or social life. You may plan to go for outings with friends or siblings. Some disputes with neighbours may be resolved now. Students are advised to overcome laziness.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may spend money on your family and it may affect your financial health. You are advised to avoid spending money on worthless things. You should think twice before acting. It is advised to control your straightforwardness to maintain harmony in your domestic and professional life.

KIDZONE



Akshath R, 7 Years, Podar Happy Kids

Dikshit K, 6 Years, Alpine Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
n 3 4 5 6 7 8
nl 6 24 120 720 5044
40320
nl 3 8 15 48 105 384
8ll=384
3l/3ll=2
4l/4ll=3
5l/5ll=8
(5l/5ll)ll=8ll=384
ANS: 5

RIDDLER
New York Times

FAST FIVE

G	R	A	M	A
R	E	M	A	N
O	V	E	R	T
O	U	N	C	E
M	E	T	H	S

BULL'S EYE
allege, eagle, gale, GAZELLE, glaze, glee, laze, legal, zeal

STRIKE OUT

S	T	E	T	S	O	N	■	Y	A	C	H	T	■	■
E	■	O	B	S	■	A	F	T	■	■	■	D	■	■
H	■	H	A	R	D	H	I	T	■	■	■	L	■	■
C	R	I	S	T	O	■	S	T	A	B	L	E	■	■
A	■	P	■	N	U	N	■	U	■	■	■	V	■	■
E	N	D	U	P	■	O	■	E	R	R	S	■	■	■
B	A	■	U	R	G	E	D	■	C	■	■	A	■	■
A	M	I	D	■	O	■	I	B	S	E	N	■	■	■
T	■	O	■	E	E	L	■	R	■	■	I	■	■	■
R	O	N	A	L	D	■	D	E	O	D	A	R	■	■
E	■	R	A	I	D	E	R	S	■	■	B	■	■	■
L	■	G	E	N	■	H	O	B	■	■	A	■	■	■
A	T	L	A	S	■	A	S	S	A	I	L	S	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	E
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	T
T	A	C	I	T	U	R	N	■	A	W	R	Y	■	E
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	O	A	R	E	D	■	P	S	Y	C	H	O	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	E
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
W	E	E	P	S	■	■	■	S	T	A	R	S	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
K	U	N	G	F	U	■	E	N	C	A	S	E	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
E	T	U	I	■	S	E	A	F	A	R	E	R	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

SUDOKU

2	9	8	5	1	6	3	7	4
6	3	1	2	4	7	8	5	9
5	7	4	8	9	3	2	1	6
1	4	6	9	3	5	7	2	8
3	2	7	6	8	4	5	9	1
8	5	9	7	2	1	4	6	3
7	1	3	4	5	9	6	8	2
4	8	5	1	6	2	9	3	7
9	6	2	3	7	8	1	4	5

MENSA PUZZLE
C: the top arm moves 45° clockwise at each stage and the bottom arm moves 90° clockwise;

QUOTE UNCODE
Excess on occasion is exhilarating. It prevents moderation from acquiring the deadening effect of a habit.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 – 5 – 5 + 9 = 6
Medium
6 – 4 – 4 + 9 = 7
Hard
6 – 4 x 2 + 1 = 5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
Y, Yo, Soy, Toys, Story, Storey, Oysters.

LOOP

KAKURO

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Allegations against Brad Pitt
According to a newly-revealed FBI report, Hollywood star Brad Pitt reportedly told Angelina Jolie one of her children "looked like a f****** Columbine kid

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Bipasha on motherhood

Bipasha Basu recently joined the bandwagon of Bollywood actresses who will be embracing motherhood this year. The actress recently opened up about her pregnancy.

In a new interview with a news portal, Bipasha revealed that her husband Karan Singh Grover and she have been trying to have a baby for a long time even before the pandemic. However, the plans were put on hold naturally. However, last year in 2021, they thought about having a baby again.

Bipasha was not taking up any work because she wanted to have a baby and they were both focusing on that part of their life, she told Hindustan Times.

Sharing dreamy pictures from her maternity shoot with her fans on social media, Bipasha wrote, 'A new time, a new phase, a new light adds another unique shade to our prism of life. Making us a little more whole than we used to be. We began this life individually and then we met each other and from then we were two. Too much love for only two, seemed a little unfair for us to seeso soon, we who once were two will now become three. (sic).' —**ETimes**

Throw shade, but she's Sunny

Sunny Leone, who started her career in Bollywood with Pooja Bhatt's 'Jism 2', commands a huge fan following on social media and across the country.

In an interview with a news portal, Sunny revealed that she is today a completely different person from the person who entered the film industry in 2012. The actress added that she loves being a part of this industry and is very grateful for all the love and work she has been getting.

Elaborating further, Sunny added that she is glad that some people took a chance on her when others did not. According to her, there are some production houses and people in Bollywood who are still reluctant to work with her. However, the actress stated that it doesn't bother her.

Sunny recently signed a project with Anurag Kashyap. —**ETimes**

'Jacqueline victim of larger conspiracy'

Actor's lawyer says she is innocent, and such frivolous allegations only tarnish her image unnecessarily

The Enforcement Directorate has filed a charge sheet in Sukesh Chandrasekhar's 200 crore money laundering case and has named Jacqueline Fernandez as an accused in the same. When ETimes reached out to Jacqueline's lawyer, Prashant Patil, stated that they have not received a copy of the charge sheet and are waiting for the matter to be heard at the end of this month. He further stated that it is unfair to prosecute the actress with 'untrue allegations'.

"You have to understand the humanitarian side of this. When any person is innocent, and if she is charged with a fake offence, it definitely is painful and not fair. Without hearing Jacqueline's side of story, it's not fair to prosecute her with such untrue allegations. Nobody has bothered to read the evidence filed by the ED. The entire evidence reflects that she is innocent. Be it a common man or a celebrity, every person has a right to live with dignity. She has worked immensely hard in life to achieve what she has achieved in her profession. Such frivolous allegations only tarnish the image unnecessarily," said Prashant Patil.

Previously, Patil had told ETimes the actress was a victim in the case. "She has always cooperated with the investigation agencies and attended all the summons issued till date. She has handed over all the information to the best of her ability to the ED. The agencies have failed to appreciate that she was cheated and conned into this matter. She is a victim of a larger criminal conspiracy. Taking the entire prosecution case to be true for the sake of arguments, even then, no case is made out against Jacqueline under the scheme of Prevention of Money Laundering Act or any other Law in force. This is a case of mala fide prosecution and my client shall take steps as required under law," he had stated.—**ETimes**

> **Every person has a right to live with dignity. She has worked immensely hard in life to achieve what she has achieved in her profession**
> –Prashant Patil

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Passed at 5th attempt!

The success of Gaalipata 2 has made producer M Ramesh Reddy a happy man. Reddy has been expressing gratitude to all those who supported the Ganesh, Diganth and Pavan Kumar-starrer directed by Yogaraj Bhat. "I was not sure Gaalipata 2 would do well when the director narrated the script to me. But, I was happy and became confident when veteran actor Anant Nag told me that it would be a huge hit at the box office," says Reddy, who is all smiles.

The producer has been desperately waiting for a success since 2017 and has got the fruits of his wait now. He has produced movies such as Uppu Huli Khara in 2017, Nathicharami in 2018, Padde Huli in 2020, and 100 in 2021 and now Gaalipata 2.

"With the failure of four of my earlier movies, I consider myself as a student who failed four times. Now with the success of Gaalipata 2, I consider myself as the student who has passed the exam. Though I have passed the exam, I am yet to receive marks card (details of box-office collection)," he said.

Many actors of Gaalipata 2 are already asking him about the sequel – Gaalipata 3 – shortly.

Kiran Raj is Sher

Kiran Raj, who debuted with Kannada tele serial Kannadathi, is all set to act in his third movie – Sher. Its muhurat function was held at Sri Kanteerava Studios on Wednesday. Dr Sudharshan Sundararaj from Bidar, who sounded the clap board on the lead pair, also debuts as a producer in Sandalwood with this film.

According to director Pra Siddh, Kiran was selected to play the lead based on his performance in Bharjari Gandu that is scheduled for release next month. Surekha plays the female lead. "Kiran looks soft but his performance is excellent in action scenes. His speciality is that he gets into the skin of his character. He has undergone training in kick boxing and martial arts," said Pra Siddh.

He said the shooting of Sher is planned to be held at the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) yard at Chikkaballapur. "It is the story of orphans who make their livelihood at the APMC yard and their struggle to have a hold on the yard. How the protagonist survives in such an environment is the story," he said.

Cocktail of suspense

The first look of Cocktail has received good response. Well-known director Prem also known as Jogi Prem unveiled the first look and wished luck to the cast and crew. "I selected its title as the story is a suspense thriller with all elements such as love, sentiment, emotion, action and crime. It can keep the audiences on edge of their seats. The story revolves around murders of girls who have a similar name. This movie will give the feel of a cocktail for those who watch it. The ending is unique," said director Sriram.

He said he selected newcomers to play the lead roles. "Veren Keshav got basic training in acting at Anupam Kher's Actor Prepares – The School for Actors. He is doing a good job and has potential," he said. The cast includes Charishma, Shobaraj, Ramesh Pandit.